

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 051516Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1686
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T CAIRO 4481

EXDIS

NOFORN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID EG
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT: IRANIAN PARTICIPATION

REF: (A) CAIRO 2645, (B) CAIRO 2845, (C) CAIRO 3920, (D) STATE 77841

SUMMARY: IRANIAN AMB HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROACHED
RE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT. HIS EARLIER
REPORT OF TALK WITH UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON WAS
SENT DIRECTLY TO SHAH'S PRIVATE BUREAU. HAS
JUST BEEN INFORMED EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN
PRESENTED NOTE TO MFA REQUESTING IRANIAN PARTICIPATION
IN WESTERN "CONSORTIUM." HE IS INSTRUCTED REPLY
IRAN UNABLE TO DO SO AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF
REDUCED OIL REVENUES, BUT WOULD BE WILLING SO
SO ONCE SITUATION CHANGES. HE IS PUZZLED ABOUT
BEING BYPASSED BY FAHMY AND CLAIMS HE WANTS TO
SUPPORT GOE APPEAL. ASKED WHAT HE SHOULD DO,
I SUGGESTED HE DISCUSS MATTER WITH MINSTATE
MOHAMED RIAD TO REQUEST CLARIFICATION.
THEREAFTER, HE CAOULD DECIDE WHETHER TO SEE
FAHMY WHEN LATTER RETURNS. ALSO TOLD HIM I
AM UNDER INSTRUCTIONS DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH
PRIMIN SALIM AND HAVE ASKED FOR MEETING TO
DO SO. END SUMMARY.

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1. IRANIAN AMB BAHRAMI ASKED TO CALL ON ME URGENTLY THIS AFTERNOON. IT TURNED OUT HE WAS SOMEWHAT UPSET AND WISHED TO "CONSULT" ABOUT WHAT HE SHOULD DO. HE THEN RELATED FOLLOWING:

2. AFTER HIS TALK WITH UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON (REFTEL A), HE HAD IMMEDIATELY SENT A TELEGRAM TO TEHRAN ABOUT IRANIAN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT IN FY 76. HOWEVER, HIS MESSAGE WAS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE SHAH'S PRIVATE BUREAU RATHER THAN TO THE IRANIAN MFA.

A FEW DAYS LATER HE HAD RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE SHAH'S PRIVATE BUREAU SAYING IRAN WOULD EXPECT TO RECEIVE EGYPTIAN DEMARCHE.

3. BASED ON HIS UNDERSTANDING WITH US, HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY EXPECTED TO BE CALLED BY FAHMY TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT. THIS HAD NEVER HAPPENED. TODAY, HOWEVER, HE HAD BEEN ASTONISHED TO HEAR FROM IRANIAN MFA THAT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN TEHRAN HAS RECENTLY SENT A NOTE TO THE MFA ASKING FOR IRANIAN PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN "CONSORTIUM" TO BE ORGANIZED TO HELP EGYPT. GOE HAD NEVER MENTIONED ANY SUCH NOTE TO HIM. MOREOVER, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IZZET SULAIMAN HAD NEVER DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH MFA. IN FACT, SULAIMAN IS CURRENTLY HERE ON CONSULTATION, BUT IN ANY CASE, ACCORDING TO BAHRAMI, SELDOM SEES ANYONE HIGHER THAN DIRECTOR GENERAL LEVEL.

4. MFA HAS JUST INSTRUCTED HIM TO REPLY TO GOE SAYING THAT IRAN IS SHORT OF CASH BECAUSE OF REDUCED OIL REVENUES AND IS THEREFORE UNABLE TO HELP AT THIS TIME. AT SOME FUTURE TIME, WHEN OIL REVENUES ARE AGAIN INCREASED, IRAN WILL BE PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE IN "CONSORTIUM" AND ON A BILATERAL BASIS. BAHRAMI OPINED MFA REPLY WAS DEVELOPED AT MIDDLE-LEVEL AND NEVER CHECKED OUT WITH SHAH'S PRIVATE BUREAU. HE IS UPSET THAT EGYPTIANS NEVER APPROACHED HIM

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DIRECTLY, BUT INSTEAD ADOPTED AFOREMENTIONED NOTE PROCEDURE. APART FROM CAUSING DIFFICULTIES FOR HIM WITH HIS OWN MFA, THIS BYPASSING MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO LEND HIS SUPPORT TO EGYPT'S REQUEST. HE PROFESSES TO BELIEVE THAT IRAN SHOULD TRY TO HELP EGYPT AT THIS TIME.

5. BAHRAMI ASKED WHY I THOUGHT FAHMY HAD BY

PASSED HIM AND WHAT HE SHOULD NOW DO? I TOLD HIM THAT I COULD NOT ANSWER HIS FIRST QUESTION, BUT NOTED PRIMIN MAMDUH DALIM'S OFFICE IS HANDLING ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. I ALSO POINTED OUT FAHMY HAS BEEN VERY BUSY PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF AN OVERSIGHT. UNDERSTANDABLY, BAHRAMI WAS NOT CONVINCED, BUT SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS FAHMY HAD NOT RAISED MATTER DIRECTLY BECAUSE THE TWO DO NOT YET KNOW EACH OTHER. WELL. THEY HAD MET ONLY ON ONE OR TWO FORMAL OCCASIONS (I SAID NOTHING ABOUT FAHMY'S COMMENT THAT BAHRAMI IS NO MORE THAN A "PROTOCOL MAN, HENCE, NOT THE RIGHT MAN WITH WHOM TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT" -REFTEL C). I SAID BAHRAMI'S SPECULATION SOUNDED REASONALBE TO ME. I DID NOT THINK HE SHOULD TAKE THIS PERSONALLY IN ANY WAY, BUT SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO GOE HIS WILLINGNESS AND ABILITY TO HELP.

6. WHILE DECISION WAS UP TO HIM, MY OWN COUNSEL WOULD BE THAT, IN ABSENCE OF FAHMY, HE SHOULD ARRANGE MEETING WITH MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD, TELL HIM ABOUT IRANIAN MFA REPLY, AND ASK FOR CLARIFICATION WHY MATTER WAS HANDLED IN THIS WAY. I SUGGESTED EGYPTIANS WOULD BE PLEASED TO HEAR OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT THEIR REQUEST. THEREAFTER DEPENDING UPON RIAD'S REPLY, HE COULD DECIDE WHETHER AND WHEN TO SEE FAHMY AFTER THE LATTER'S RETURN. I ALSO TOLD BAHRAMI THAT I AM UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO SPEAK TO PRIMIN MAMDUH SALIM ON THE SUBJECT. BAHRAMI SAID HE WOULD HANDLE MATTER AS I HAD SUGGESTED. HE ASKED THAT NOTHING BE SAID ABOUT SECRET

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OUR TALK EITHER TO EGYPTANS OR TO IRANIANS.

7. I HAVE ASKED FOR MEETING WITH BOTH ABU ISMAIL AND MAMDUH SALIM LATER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS STATUS OF EGYPTIAN APPROACH TO IRAN (REFTEL D). IF POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ABU ISMAIL BEFORE SEEING THE PRIMIN. I CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT FAHMY, EXCLUDED BY PRIMIN FROM DETERMINATION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO ASK IRAN FOR BANK GUARANTEE AT THIS TIME, DECIDED ON HIS OWN TO SEND A NOTE AS A MEANS OF ALERTING IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TO EGYPTIAN REQUIREMENTS. THIS WOULD BE A TYPICAL FAHMY END RUN. AS I PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, HE THINKS GOE CAN GET MORE FROM IRAN THAN IT IS LIKELY TO GET FROM THE SAUDIS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO04481
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760131-0462
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760498/aaaadfzz.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, NOFORN
Reference: 76 CAIRO 2645, 76 CAIRO 2845, 76 CAIRO 3920, 76 STATE 77841
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPT: IRANIAN PARTICIPATION
TAGS: EAID, PDIP, EG, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006